

RTI Upstream begins innovative slug catcher cleaning project in US Gulf of Mexico

- An innovative solution proposed by RTI Upstream will allow the slug catcher to stay online during cleaning
- Collaborative approach leverages demonstrated practices from other process facilities to deliver a step change for Shell and another client
- New and creative methods are expected to achieve significant improvements in safety, environmental impact, and cost

Houston, TX– RTI Upstream is working with Shell and another client to debottleneck the Mars Corridor in the US Gulf of Mexico through the cleaning of a critical slug catcher. RTI Upstream’s strategies utilize cleaning methods that reduce downtime, eliminate shut-ins, and reduce carbon emissions. The potential savings for Shell and the other client are projected to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

The project centers around a massive, 500-foot long, 12,500-barrel, slug catcher positioned at the end of the Mars Corridor, which is connected to Shell’s Mars, Olympus, Ursa, and Vito assets funneled together by the West Delta 143 transfer station. The slug catcher has a known buildup of asphaltenes within the system and poses a real threat to the design capacity of the catcher. The slug catcher is experiencing as much as a 30% reduction in capacity (~8,750 bpd reduced capacity) because of this buildup. Unfortunately, the slug catcher does not have a bypass, making re-routing the gas to clean the slug catcher safely a challenge.

RTI Upstream’s proposed solution, accepted by Shell and the client as the most beneficial, is unconventional: keep the slug catcher online by segregating the new section from the old and making isolations where necessary to maintain gas flow.

Cody Nath, President and CEO of RTI Upstream explained, “This project would not be possible without the collaborative spirit between all involved. This collaborative approach is pioneering a step



888.634.3183



480 WILDWOODFOREST DR.
STE 400
SPRING, TX 77380

change for the upstream segment of our industry. These new and creative methods are expected to achieve significant improvements in safety, environmental impact, and cost.”

RTI Upstream is a leading global industrial solutions provider that creates facility uptime through innovative solutions for production process system decontamination. We provide products and solutions to increase efficiency gains while reducing water usage and carbon impact. Environmental stewardship, corporate responsibility, and investing in local, regional, and global communities have been in our DNA since the beginning. Learn more at www.rtiupstream.com.